WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE DEMON REALM?
ZZZT
WE WERE...
...PREPARING FOR WAR.

Solo Leveling

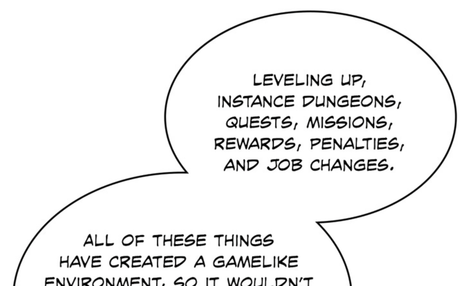
Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

83

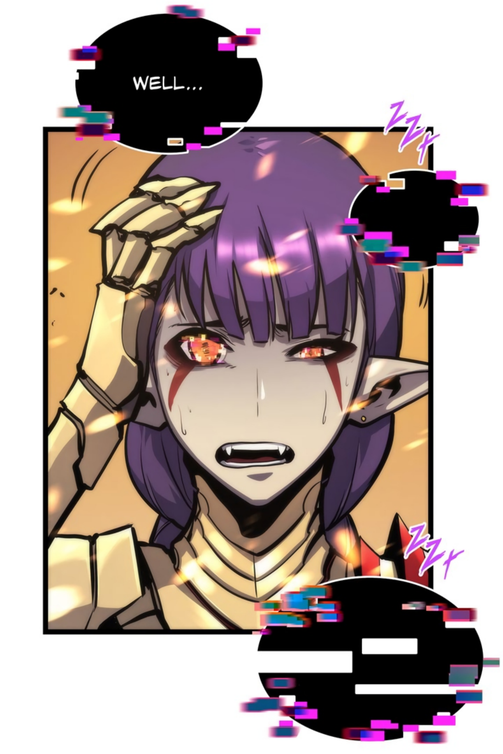
WAR?
WHAT KIND OF WAR?
YES.
WE WERE PREPARING FOR A WAR AGAINST A POWERFUL ENEMY THAT REQUIRED THE JOINT FORCES OF THE ENTIRE DEMON RACE...

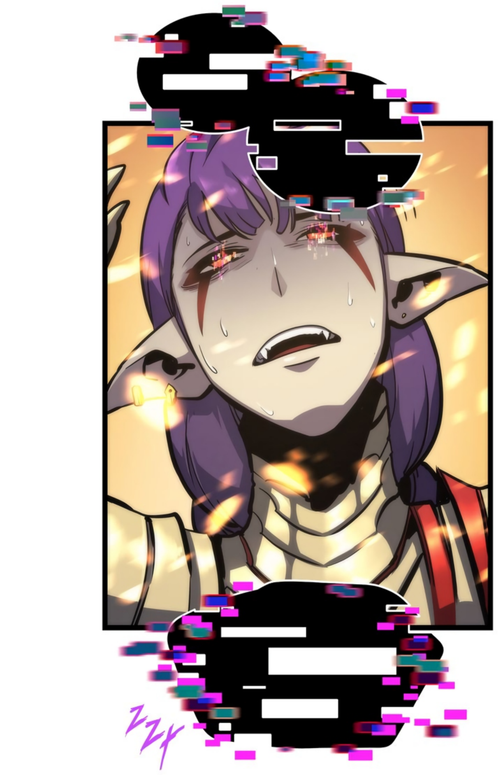
I HAVE SAID MORE THAN I AM ALLOWED TO SAY. THIS CONVERSATION WILL BE TERMINATED.
I HAVE SAID MORE THAN I AM ALLOWED TO SAY. THIS CONVERSATION WILL BE TERMINATED.
I HAVE SAID MORE THAN I AM ALLOWED TO SAY. THIS CONVERSATION WILL BE TERMINATED.

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN. THE SAME PATTERN OF EVENTS OCCURRED BACK WHEN I ASKED BARUKA QUESTIONS, TOO.
THE SYSTEM IS TERMINATING THE CONVERSATION BY FORCE.
THIS PROBABLY MEANS MY CONVERSATION WITH HER HAD SOME KIND OF CLUE.


LEVELING UP, INSTANCE DUNGEONS, QUESTS, MISSIONS, REWARDS, PENALTIES, AND JOB CHANGES.
ALL OF THESE THINGS HAVE CREATED A GAMELIKE

BE FAR-FETCHED TO ASSUME
THAT THESE MONSTERS ARE
JUST ANOTHER ELEMENT
OF GAMEPLAY.
WHAT KIND OF
POWERFUL ENEMIES
WERE YOU PREPARING
TO FIGHT AGAINST?


WELL...
ZZZ
ZZZ


ZZZ

THE SYSTEM REACTED STRONGLY WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT HER ENEMIES.

THE POWERS OF THE SYSTEM ARE OTHERWORLDLY.

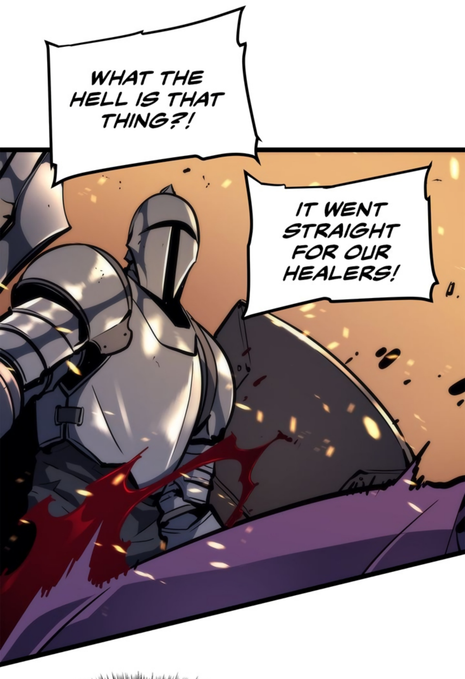
IF THE SYSTEM HAPPENS TO BE INFLUENCING ME OR THE WORLD AT LARGE, THAT MEANS...

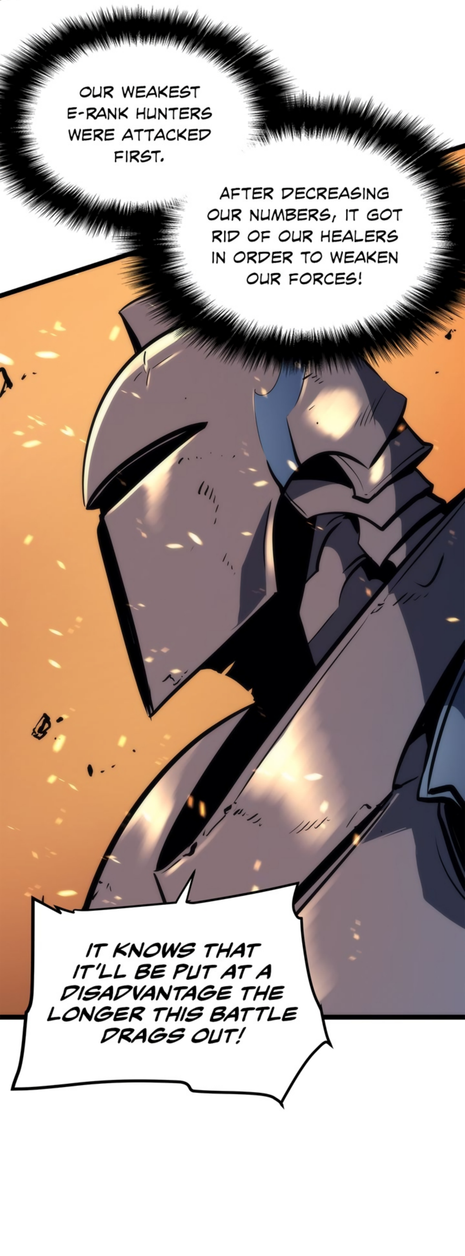
THE ENEMIES THAT THE DEMONS WERE BATTLING...
COULD THEY HOLD THE ANSWER TO ALL THIS?
SLASH

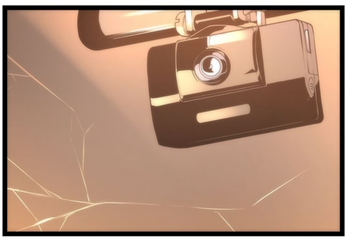
A MAGIC BEAST!!
CLANG
SWISH
CLANG
QUICK, BARRAGE IT WITH ATTACKS!
SWISH
CLANG

THAT IS NO ORDINARY BEAST...!

SLICE

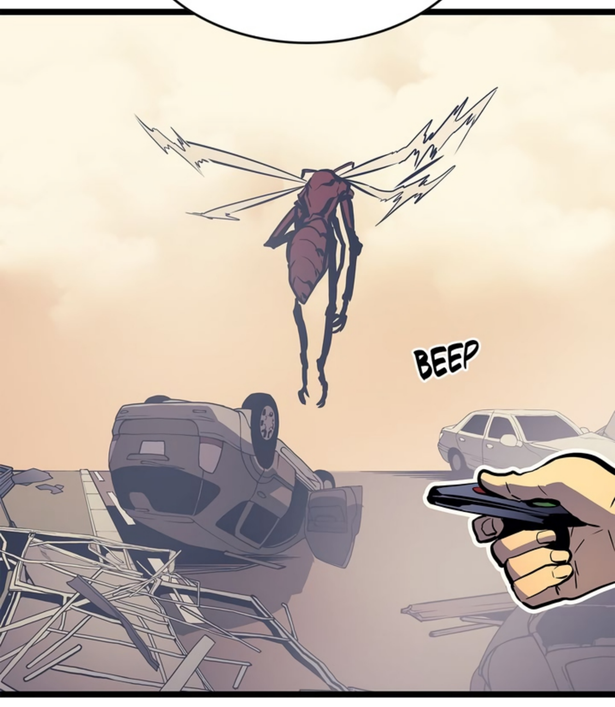

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
IT WENT STRAIGHT FOR OUR HEALERS!


OUR WEAKEST E-RANK HUNTERS WERE ATTACKED FIRST.
AFTER DECREASING OUR NUMBERS, IT GOT RID OF OUR HEALERS IN ORDER TO WEAKEN OUR FORCES!
IT KNOWS THAT IT'LL BE PUT AT A DISADVANTAGE THE LONGER THIS BATTLE DRAGS OUT!



THIS BLACK BOX

RECORDING IS THE ONLY FOOTAGE OF THE ANT WE HAVE.



THE MUTANT ANT THAT APPEARED RECENTLY WAS DEFEATED IN A SINGLE DAY.

IT WAS FIRST DISCOVERED ON A SMALL ISLAND NEXT TO THE REGION WHERE IT WAS EXTERMINATED. WE GATHER IT MUST'VE TRAVERSED HERE AFTER COMPLETING ITS HUNT ON THE ISLAND.

THANKS TO THE HUNTERS WHO RESPONDED TO OUR EMERGENCY CALL, THE THREAT WAS SUCCESSFULLY ELIMINATED.

FOUR E-RANKS, ONE D-RANK HEALER, AND ONE C-RANK LEADER DIED ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

AN A-RANK HUNTER WHO JOINED MIDWAY WAS THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE SUCCESSFUL EXTERMINATION OF THE ANT.

LONG STORY SHORT, YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT'S GOING TO TAKE AT LEAST ONE A-RANK HUNTER TO TAKE DOWN A SINGLE MUTANT ANT.

THERE HAVE BEEN 294 CIVILIAN CASUALTIES DUE TO THIS MUTANT ANT.

A TOTAL OF 108 HUNTERS WERE DISPATCHED.

WHILE THAT MIGHT SEEM LIKE AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER, SINCE THE MUTANT ANT HAD THE ABILITY TO SENSE DANGER AND FLY AWAY, THE JAPANESE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION BELIEVES THAT THEIR RESPONSE WAS REASONABLE.

OUT OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN ASIA, JAPAN HAS ONE OF THE MOST WELL-ORGANIZED SYSTEMS SET UP FOR THEIR NETWORK OF HUNTERS.

THAT SAID, IF JAPAN SUFFERED THIS MANY CASUALTIES, WHO KNOWS

WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED IF THE ANTS HAD FLOWN OVER TO MAINLAND KOREA...

MURMUR

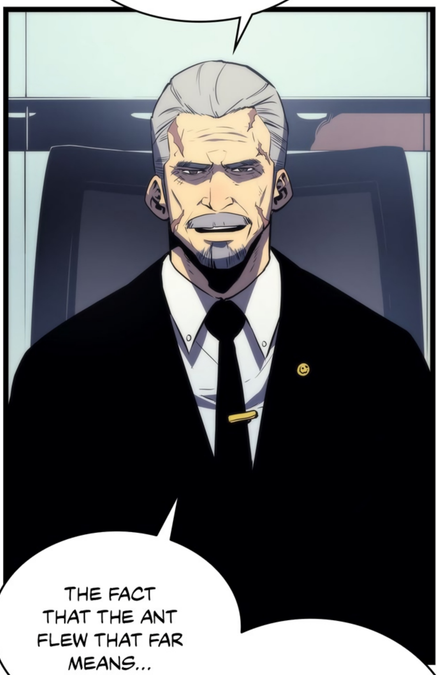
WHISPER

MURMUR

MUCH LIKE JAPAN, OUR COUNTRY HAS MANY ISLANDS AS WELL,

BUT WE AREN'T CAPABLE OF MONITORING EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM...

AN ISLAND 150 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM JEJU WAS ATTACKED.



THE FACT THAT THE ANT FLEW THAT FAR MEANS...

THEY'RE CAPABLE OF FLYING NOT JUST TO THE COASTAL PROVINCES, BUT ALL THE WAY TO THE CITY OF MOKPO AS WELL.

IF THEY WERE TO CHANGE COURSE, THEY WOULD EVEN BE ABLE TO REACH THE NORTHERN REGIONS OF JINDO AND WANDO COUNTY!
ANTS THAT CAN FLY, EH? THEY'RE MORE LIKE BEES THAN ANTS.
SOUTH KOREA CAN'T SEND HUNTERS TO EVERY SINGLE ISLAND LIKE JAPAN DID. WE LACK THE MANPOWER.
EVEN IF WE DEPLOY A COUPLE OF LOW-RANKING HUNTERS, THEY'LL JUST BECOME ANT FOOD!
WHO WOULD COME TO THE AID OF SOUTH KOREA IN THIS SITUATION?
CHINA, OR MAYBE RUSSIA? THEY HAVE A MULTITUDE OF HUNTERS AVAILABLE, BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN, THEY ALSO HAVE A VAST AMOUNT OF LAND TO PROTECT.
WHAT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, THEN? NO, THEY REFUSED TO COME TO OUR AID BACK WHEN THE FIRST S-RANK GATE OPENED...

I HAVE A HEADACHE...

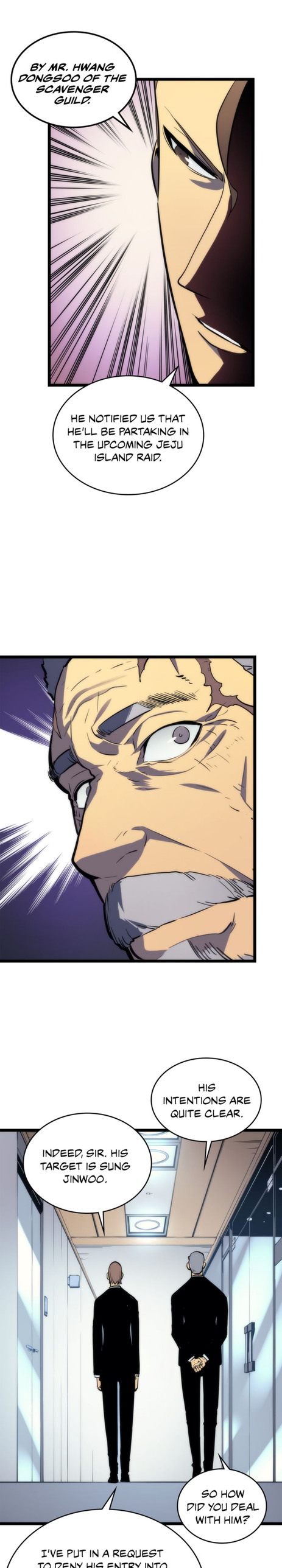
MR. GO.

HOW MAY I HELP YOU, MR. WOO?

I DIDN'T MENTION THIS DURING THE MEETING,

BUT WE'VE BEEN SECRETLY CONTACTED BY SOMEONE.

SECRETLY? BY WHOM?


BY MR. HWANG DONGSOO OF THE SCAVENGER GUILD.
HE NOTIFIED US THAT HE'LL BE PARTAKING IN THE UPCOMING JEJU ISLAND RAID.
HIS INTENTIONS ARE QUITE CLEAR.
INDEED, SIR. HIS TARGET IS SUNG JINWOO.
SO HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH HIM?
I'VE PUT IN A REQUEST TO DENY HIS ENTRY INTO

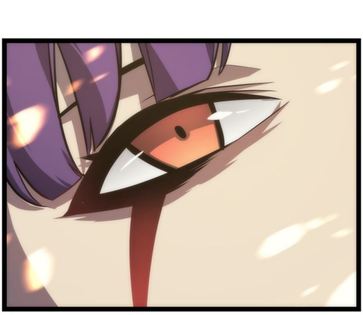
SOUTH KOREA USING THE CONFLICT WITH MR. BAEK YOONHO DURING THE RED GATE INCIDENT AS AN EXCUSE.

HOWEVER, MR. HWANG IS NOT THE ONLY HUNTER WHO CONTACTED US.

THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE?

THE CALL WAS FROM ***A NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTER.***

LET ME INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU, SIR. PLEASE COME WITH ME.



HUH?

WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP?
YOU AWAKE?

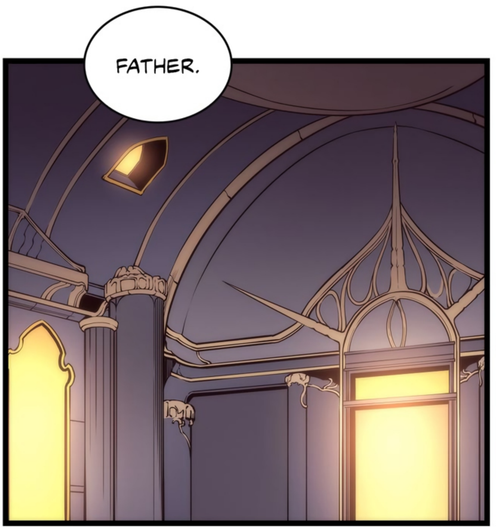
LOOKS LIKE NOT ALL DEMONS ARE FRIENDLY WITH EACH OTHER.

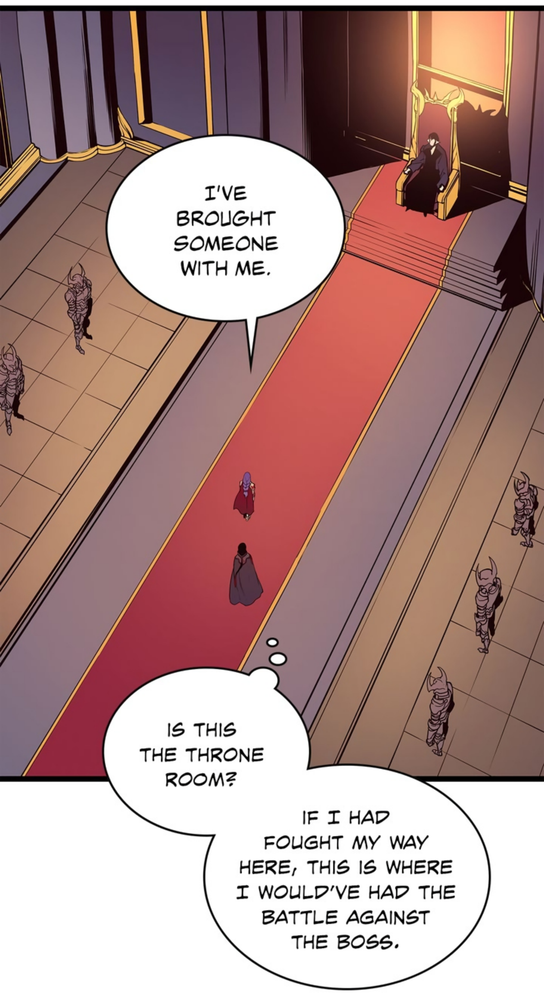
THESE GUYS TRIED TO ATTACK YOU.

WAIT...
DID YOU PROTECT ME WHILE I WAS ASLEEP?
THANK YOU.
DEMONS WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE DON'T CONSIDER DEMONS WITH INTELLIGENCE AS ONE OF THEIR

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET TO WHERE THE ENTRY PERMIT IS?

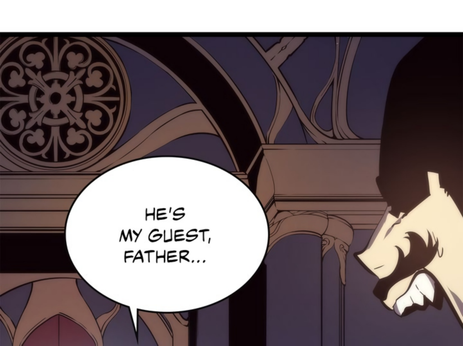
A DEMONS' CASTLE INSIDE A DEMONS' CASTLE...?
WHERE'S MY FATHER?
HE'S IN THE THRONE ROOM, LADY ESIL.
WHO IS THAT MAN BEHIND YOU...?
HE'S A VERY IMPORTANT GUEST OF MINE, SO SHOW RESPECT.

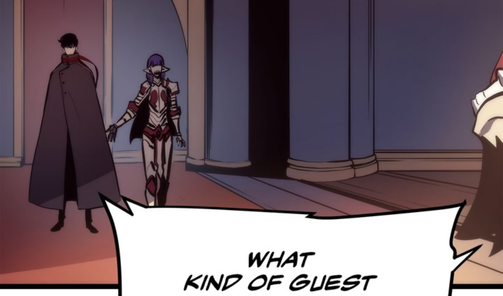

FATHER.


I'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE WITH ME.
IS THIS THE THRONE ROOM?
IF I HAD FOUGHT MY WAY HERE, THIS IS WHERE I WOULD'VE HAD THE BATTLE AGAINST THE BOSS.

ESIL,
WHA... WHAT...!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! WHO IS THAT MAN NEXT TO YOU?


HE'S MY GUEST, FATHER...



WHAT KIND OF GUEST BRINGS ALONG AN ARMY OF SOLDIERS?!

WHAT?

ARE YOU INCAPABLE OF SEEING THEM, ESIL?

THERE IS A THRONG OF SOLDIERS HIDING BEHIND THAT MAN IN THE DARKNESS!!

I GUESS HE'S GOT SHARP SENSES.

HOW DARE YOU BRING SOLDIERS INTO MY HOME!!
FATHER!
DA
DUN

I PROMISED ESIL...
...THAT I'D LEAVE THIS PLACE IF SHE HANDS ME THE ENTRY PERMIT.

IS HE THE ONE THAT'S BEEN KILLING OFF DEMONS AT AN INSANE SPEED AND CLEARING THE FLOORS OF THIS CASTLE?
ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOBLES, THE RADIRU CLAN SITS LOW ON THE PECKING ORDER AT 20TH PLACE, MAKING US ONE OF THE WEAKEST CLANS.
HE WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT VULCAN AND METUS, SO THERE'S NO WAY WE STAND A CHANCE...!
THE ENTRY PERMIT... IS THAT ALL YOU WANT?
I HAVE ONE MORE REQUEST.

GRAB

I'D LIKE TO BORROW HER FOR A BIT.

ESIL SAID SHE KNOWS WHERE ALL THE ENTRY PERMITS TO THE TOP FLOORS ARE.

IN ORDER TO LOCATE THEM, I NEED HER AS MY GUIDE.

BUT...

...MAYBE I'VE SAID SOMETHING WRONG?

To Be Continued...

D&C WEBTOON

REDICE STUDIO

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